

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-03

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L/OES-MRS. WEST

ARA/PLC-MR. MARTIN

COMM/NOAA-MR. WALLACE

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R 221841Z OCT 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS STATE 232168

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, MX

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO MEXICAN IATTC PROPOSAL

FOR GEORGE REES, FISHERIES ATTACHE

1. PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM MR. CLINGAN TO
AMBASSADOR CASTRO Y CASTRO.

2. FURTHER TO OUR RECENT MEETING, I WOULD LIKE TO OFFER THE
FOLLOWING THOUGHTS ON YOUR PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE A 10
PERCENT INCREASE IN MEXICO'S YELLOWFIN TUNA CATCH (I.E. TO
22,000 TONS).

3. WHILE THE UNITED STATES UNDERSTANDS AND APPRECIATES
MEXICO'S NEEDS AND INTERESTS WITH RESPECT TO ITS TUNA FISH-
ERY, WE FIND IT DIFFICULT TO SUPPORT AN INCREASE IN THE
SPECIAL CLOSED SEASON ALLOCATION, PRINCIPALLY BECAUSE IT
APPEARS THAT MEXICO WILL FALL SIGNIFICANTLY SHORT OF CAPTUR-
ING THE 20,000 TONS OF YELLOWFIN ITS FLEET HAS THE OPPOR-
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TUNITY TO TAKE UNDER THE TERMS OF THE 1974 IATTC RESOLUTION.

4. THE UNITED STATES HAS NO DESIRE TO IMPEDE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MEXICAN TUNA FISHERY, BUT DOES NOT UNDERSTAND

THE NECESSITY OF AN INCREASE IN THE PRESENT ALLOCATION, WHICH, IF CONTINUED NEXT YEAR, APPARENTLY WOULD ALLOW FURTHER EXPANSION OF MEXICAN CATCH ABOVE CURRENT LEVELS. ALLOCATIONS WHICH ARE NOT FULLY UTILIZED REDUCE WHAT OTHER VESSELS MIGHT CATCH, AND THUS ARE WASTEFUL NOT ONLY IN ECONOMIC TERMS BUT ALSO IN MEETING THE RISING NEED OF THE WORLD FOR GREATER FOOD HARVESTS.

5. AN INCREASE IN THE SPECIAL ALLOTMENT IS ALSO DIFFICULT TO JUSTIFY IN LIGHT OF THE POSSIBILITY OF A SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN THE TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH FOR 1975. IT DOES NOT SEEM EQUITABLE FOR SOME COUNTRIES TO ENJOY INCREASED SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES TO FISH WHILE OTHERS ARE UNDERGOING A REDUCTION IN THEIR FISHERIES FOR CONSERVATION PURPOSES. THE BURDEN OF CONSERVATION MUST BE, TO SOME EXTENT, SHARED BY ALL INVOLVED NATIONS IF CONSERVATION IS TO SUCCEED. ALTHOUGH WE WILL NOT ASK THAT THE SPECIAL ALLOCATION FOR MEXICO BE REDUCED FOR THE ABOVE REASONS, WE ARE RELUCTANT TO SUPPORT AN INCREASE WHICH WOULD INCREASE THE POSSIBILITY OF WASTING THE RESOURCE.

6. CONCERNING THE ANNUAL QUOTA FOR 1975 TO BE RECOMMENDED BY THE COMMISSION, WHILE THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WOULD CERTAINLY DISCOURAGE ANY PROPOSAL WHICH PRESENTED A DANGER TO THE STOCKS OF YELLOWFIN TUNA, THIS QUESTION IS ESSENTIALLY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE IATTC COMMISSIONERS. WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE U.S. COMMISSIONERS MAY SUGGEST A QUOTA WITH A LOWER LIMIT OF 150,000 TONS AND AN UPPER LIMIT OF 175,000 TONS. U.S. GOVERNMENT TECHNICAL ADVISORS AND EXPERTS INDICATE THAT SUCH A QUOTA WOULD DO NO DAMAGE TO THE YELLOWFIN STOCKS.

7. PLEASE ASSURE AMBASSADOR CASTRO Y CASTRO THAT WE WOULD WELCOME ANY RESPONSE TO THESE THOUGHTS AND, IN ANY CASE, THAT I LOOK FORWARD TO AN EARLY MEETING WITH HIM IN OTTAWA.
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